

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 014061

62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CY, PFOR

SUBJECT: SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEE REPORT

REF: NICOSIA 0025

FULL TEXT OF RELEASE BY OFFICE OF SENATOR KENNEDY WHICH
COVERED SPECIAL REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEE AND
EXCERPTS FROM REPORT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.
FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF REPORT WHICH RELATES SPECIFICALLY
TO ALLEGATION THAT EMBASSY NICOSIA HAS CREATED OBSTACLES
TO IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SPONSORED REFUGEE PROJECTS IN CYPRUS
BEGIN TEXT:

THERE ARE OTHER EMERGING PROBLEMS, AS WELL -- ALL BEYOND
THE IMMEDIATE CONTROL OF THE UNHCR. FOR EXAMPLE, THE
UNHCR BUDGET FOR CYPRUS IS INCREASINGLY SUPPORTED BY A
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PAGE 02 STATE 014061

SINGLE DONOR -- THE US GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, THE PROSPECTS

TODAY ARE THAT THE BUDGET THROUGH 1976 WILL BE SUPPORTED
ALMOST WHOLLY BY THE US.

THIS SITUATION MAKES FOR A POTENTIALLY AWKWARD RELATION-
SHIP BETWEEN THE UNHCR AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH THE US
AND CYPRUS. PERHAPS IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF PERCEPTIONS.
BUT THERE IS CLEARLY A RISK, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE UNHCR

MAY APPEAR TO BE A CONVENIENT FRONT FOR CERTAIN AMERICAN
INTERESTS. REGRETTABLY, IN RECENT MONTHS SOME PROBLEMS
ALREADY EMERGED IN THIS AREA OF CONCERN -- PARTICULARLY
THOSE INVOLVING AN OFFICIAL OF THE US EMBASSY IN NICOSIA,
WHOSE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS RAISED QUESTIONS IN SOME
QUARTERS OVER THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNHCR OPERATION AND
BROUGHT PUZZLEMENT TO OFFICIALS OF THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT.

SPECIFICALLY, THE EMBASSY ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE DRAWN INTO
A HIGHLY DELICATE DEBATE ON CYPRUS OVER THE ISSUE OF
HOUSING FOR REFUGEES. BY DEMANDING AND USING, IN EFFECT,
AN AMERICAN 'VETO' OVER A PROJECTED UNHCR HOUSING PROJECT,
THE EMBASSY, IN AN UNPRECEDENTED WAY, NEEDLESSLY THREW
DOUBT ON THE INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONING OF THE UNHCR AND
AROUSED SUSPICIONS AMONG CYPRIOT OFFICIALS OVER THE
INTENTIONS OF AMERICAN POLICY ON THE ISLAND.

DURING THE STAFF VISIT TO CYPRUS LAST OCTOBER, THE EMBASSY
INSISTED, OF COURSE, THAT NO STRINGS HAD BEEN ATTACHED TO
US HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE -- AND THAT THE US EFFORT ON
CYPRUS WAS ONE OF THE MOST OPEN AND UNEMCUMBERED EFFORTS
FOR ITS SIZE. THE FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT THE EMBASSY
THREW SOME NEEDLESS ROADBLOCKS IN THE WAY OF THE HOUSING
PROJECT AND, IN THE END, REFUSED TO SUPPORT IT AS A
UNHCR PROJECT. THE EMBASSY ALSO DELAYED, AMONG OTHER THINGS
THE IMPLEMENTING OF A \$229,000 UNHCR COTTAGE INDUSTRY
PROJECT, BY INSISTING ON ITS REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY
AMERICAN EXPERTS. GIVEN THE SUCCESS OF SIMILAR PROJECTS
AND THE RECOGNIZED NEED FOR MORE, THE EMBASSY'S INTERFERENCE
IN IMPLEMENTING THE COTTAGE INDUSTRY PROJECT WAS RIGHTFULLY
CONSIDERED INSULTING TO BOTH UNHCR AND CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS.

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THE ISSUE OF THE EMBASSY'S ATTACHING BUREAUCRATIC AND UN-
WARRANTED STRINGS TO US SUPPORT OF UNHCR PROJECTS ON
CYPRUS WAS RECENTLY PURSUED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.
UNDERSTANDINGS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN REACHED, AND HOPE-
FULLY HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS ON CYPRUS WILL CONTINUE IN
AN EXPEDITIOUS AND COOPERATIVE WAY, WITHOUT AN AMERICAN
'VETO.' END TEXT.

FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED. SISCO

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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